

Cambridge WI News

OCTOBER 2024

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Chair's Chat

Hi everyone, I hope you had a lovely summer.

Since the office reopened at the start of September we have been very busy processing all your event bookings. Who knew that a trip to a Water Recycling Centre would be so popular? When we organised it, we wondered whether we would fill all 15 places – so the fact that 48 people signed up took us by surprise. Public Affairs Committee managed to arrange a second tour on the same day and will investigate another date, to offer to the WIs that were balloted out of the visit.

Organising events is a big part of the work we do in the office and much of it is done by WI volunteers/committee members. The administration involved in processing the events is very time consuming, so we have decided to set up our own on-line ticketing service to make it easier and quicker to manage. **We are currently working through the details of using TicketSource and hope to start in the next month or so.** We have spoken to other local Federations who have adopted this system and have found it simple and easy to use.

We will send out more information as soon as the system is ready to launch. It will work the same way as shopping on line or booking tickets for the theatre or cinema. For those of you who currently book CFWI events by email and pay into our bank account, it will be a very similar process. But instead of sending the booking form details and payments separately, the booking will be done in one transaction.

We know that this won't suit everyone, so for those of

you who prefer to book by sending cash or a cheque to the office – we will continue to offer this option. Everyone will still have full access to all the events.

We have a lot of closing dates this month. Don't forget to get your booking in for **Speakers Showcase** – it's never too early to get ideas for next years programme. We have two special trips in the Diary. We are going to **Cadburys World** with a tour and cream tea in November and to **Holkham Hall** with a candlelight tour, prosecco and mince pies in December. Also – it's time to dust off your heirlooms and bring them along to our **Antiques Afternoon** with the very entertaining David Palmer and his colleague, jewellery expert Andre Marsh.

I am very sorry to end this chat with the sad news that one of our Board Members died in August. Judy Casey joined the Board in 2017. She was a very talented knitter and enthusiastic crafter – who was keen to have a go at anything and everything crafty. Judy was a member of Craft and Cookery Committee and helped to run the Craft and Chat sessions in the office. You couldn't miss her colourful hair! She will be sadly missed.

This is a picture of the tea cosy she knitted for our centenary.

Take care

Sue x



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Office open Monday and Thursday 10am-1pm and 1.30pm-3pm. Tuesday contactable by email only



Charity Reg No: 1099519 Company Reg No: 4811643

Dates for Your Diary

DATE	EVENT AND TIME	VENUE	CLOSING DATE
OCTOBER			
10	Knitting and Stitching Show	Alexandra Palace, London	22 September
15	Coffee Morning with Scam Talk - 10.30am	CFWI Office	24 September
17	Photography Workshop - 10am-1pm	CFWI Office	23 September
22	Autumn Literary Lunch - 12.15 for 12.30pm start	CFWI Office	1 October
26	Speakers Showcase - 10am-4pm	Oakington Pavilion	10 October
NOVEMBER			
2	Sashiko Day School - 10am-3pm	CFWI Office	4 October
12	Gift Bag Workshop - 11am-3pm	CFWI Office	21 October
13	Cadbury World	Birmingham	21 October
23	Willow Weaving - 10am-1pm	CFWI Office	4 November
28	"Come from Away"	Milton Keynes Theatre	Closed
30	Antiques Afternoon with David Palmer - 2pm-5pm	William Collyn Centre, Girton	7 November
DECEMBER			
6	Festive Coffee Morning	CFWI Office	20 November
9	Holkham Hall Candlelight Tour	Holkham, Norfolk	31 October
16	Christmas Celebration with Brunch	Oakington Pavilion	1 December
JANUARY			
16	Swan Lake	Sadlers Wells, London	30 September
21	Winter Warmer	CFWI Office	NBFY
FEBRUARY			
24	Jigsaw Challenge - 10am for 10.30am start	Oakington Pavilion	NBFY
MARCH			
2	Coffee Morning	CFWI Office	NBFY
APRIL			
2	Spring Lunch	TBC	NBFY
28	CFWI Annual Meeting	Comberton Sports & Arts	NBFY
<p>Craft, Coffee and Chat sessions will be held on 8 & 24 October in the WI Office 11am-3pm</p> <p>NBFY stands for no booking form yet. Booking forms can be accessed from the events page on our website using the following link view CFWI events here.</p>			

CFWI Helpline and Safeguarding

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Independent Financial Examiners

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Closing Dates October

Autumn Literary Lunch - 1 October
Sashiko Day School - 4 October
Speakers Showcase - 10 October
Gift Bag Workshop - 21 October
Cadbury World - 21 October
Holkham Hall 31 October

200 Club Winners

August

Christine Gibson - Milton WI

September

Carol Inskip - Gamlingay WI

STOP PRESS

DENTAL HEALTH MATTERS: Gift Bags

Thank you if you are collecting items for the gift bags. All donations are welcome, particularly toothbrushes - including brushes for children.

Gift Bag Workshop for the 'Dental Health Matters' Christmas Tree



Come and join our free bag making session at the Craft, Coffee and Chat group on **Tuesday 12 November** from **11am to 3pm** at CFWI Office.

No Charge

Closing Date: Monday 21 October 2024

Southwold Visit

What a fantastic day out we had when we went to Southwold in August. On arrival we divided up and many visited the local cafes while others shopped, visited the beautiful church and some even managed a quick stop at the pub!

The weather was certainly on our side, though a little windy, several of us managed a walk along the pier, a trip to the beach or an essential ice cream!



The highlight of the day of course was our visit to the theatre to see 'Good Morning Bill', an amusing and excellent production. The play was a typical old fashioned period romantic comedy, perfect for our afternoon. Opportunity for another ice cream in the interval!

A full day, great weather, good company, well organised, - thank you to the team who planned and organised the day, led by Olive, and a journey home with no traffic delays - a perfect visit to the seaside!

Elaine Bailey, Oakington & Westwick WI



Tolethorpe Hall



We had a successful trip to Tolethorpe Hall to see Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility. It's hard to believe this is an amateur production. It was a glorious day and we arrived in plenty of time for the 11.30am matinee. The play was rather long at 2hr 55min and I wished I had taken a cushion!

The play was marvelous. The stage is in the open air with trees providing part of the background. When the play had finished we returned to the coach to collect our picnics and chairs and sat on the lovely lawn to enjoy our feasts.



It's Oscar Wilde next year so I will have my cushion with me..!!

Christine Wylde, Stapleford WI

CFWI EVENTS

All our events and booking forms can be viewed and downloaded from the CFWI website [view CFWI events here](#).

You can book an event using a dedicated email address cfwievents@gmail.com or by post, further details are on the booking forms.

AUTUMN LITERARY LUNCH

Tuesday 22 October 2024
12.15pm for 12.30pm start
CFWI Office

Come and join us for a wonderful homemade meal and good company at our Autumn Lunch

Gytha Lodge is a playwright, novelist and writer for Video games and screen, best known for the DCI Jonah Sheens series of novels. Her first book, *She Lies in Wait*, is a Sunday Times Bestseller and was recommended by the Richard & Judy Book Club.



Main Course

Chicken wrapped in Bacon with creamy Boursin and sage sauce, new potatoes seasonal green vegetables
Or

Mushroom Rarebit and thyme gravy with new potatoes and seasonal green vegetables

Pudding

Plum and blackberry pudding with lemon cheese and blackberry sauce

Tea and coffee will be served at the end of the meal.

Cost: £20.00 WI Members £23.00 Non WI
Closing date: Tuesday 1 October 2024

SPEAKERS SHOWCASE

Saturday 26 October 2024
9.45am for a prompt start at 10am - 4pm
Oakington Pavilion, CB24 3AW

We are holding a Speaker's Audition day and would like to invite WI's to send one or two of their members to come along and listen to the presentations, after which they will be given the opportunity to vote on which speakers they consider suitable for inclusion on our speakers list.



Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Cost: £6.00 per person
Closing Date: Thursday 10 October 2024

Sashiko Workshop

Saturday 2 November 2024, 10am to 3pm
CFWI Office

Sashiko is a Japanese type of patchwork, developed over the years to have become a very stylised form of sewing. The day will begin with a talk about its history and how it has developed.

Each attendee will be given a pack containing items for them to work on, which they can take home.

Coffee and tea will be available on the day but please bring a packed lunch.

Cost: WI Member £45.00 (WI members only)
Closing Date: Friday 4 October 2024

Learn How to Play Bridge for Fun

Wednesday 23 and Wednesday 30 October 2024
CFWI Office 2pm-4.30pm

The card game of bridge is not a difficult card game to play at an enjoyable, friendly level. Like all games, at the highest level, it can be complex. (think tennis in the park and Wimbledon.) All people with a basic understanding of card games, particularly whist, can learn to play in a very short time. Why not join us to be taught by a master who has run bridge courses for many years and if you join us you will play your first bridge hand in the first hour. A couple of sessions is enough for many people to become confident players.



Cost: WI Members £10.00 Non WI £12.00 for both sessions

Closing Date: Wednesday 2 October 2024

Cadbury World Heritage Tour

Wednesday 13 November 2024
Cadbury World, Birmingham



Enjoy a walking and coach tour to find out the rich history of Bournville Village and the Cadbury family, and tour Cadbury World to discover the making and magic behind the Cadbury brand. There will be a light afternoon tea (cost included) and shopping opportunities before departure.

Cost WI Members £55.00 - Non WI £60.00
Closing Date: Monday 21 October 2024

Willow Weaving Workshop

Saturday 23 November 2024
10am to 1pm,
CFWI Office



A three-hour morning workshop at Girton.
You will be making a Swedish Star plus a Conical Christmas tree.

All materials will be provided.

Tea and coffee will be available.

Bring gloves, sturdy scissors and secateurs.

Cost: WI Member £30.00 (WI members only)
Closing date: Friday 4 November.

Holkham Hall Candlelight Experience

Monday 9 December 2024



An opportunity to visit the grounds and garden of Holkham Hall, before embarking on the magical Candlelight Experience, visiting the sparkling splendour of state rooms that have been decorated for Christmas. Includes a glass of prosecco and a mince pie.

Cost: WI Members £60.00 Non WI £65.00
Closing Date: Thursday 31 October

Antiques Roadshow with David Palmer

At the William Collyn Centre, Girton CB3 0GP
Saturday 30 November 2024, 1.30pm 4.45pm



TV Auctioneer David Palmer from 'Flog it', 'Bargain Hunt' and 'Cash in the Attic' returns to entertain us with an afternoon...

Antiques MASTERCLASS "The essential guide to the value of your antiques and collectables.

"Bring up to 3 items that will fit on a table".

David will be joined by jewellery expert Andrew Marsh.

Do join us in this special event! You don't need to bring any items to join and watch the fun

Cost: £10.00 WI Members and £12.00 Non Members (includes tea, coffee and biscuits)

Closing Date: Thursday 7 November

FESTIVE COFFEE MORNING

Friday 6 December 2024

CFWI Office, 10.30am-12 noon

Enjoy a glass of non-alcoholic mulled wine, coffee, sausage rolls and mince pies.

Seasonal Quiz

Cost: £6.00 members Non WI £8.00
Closing Date: Wednesday 20 November



Christmas Celebration with Brunch

Monday 16 December,
10.30am-1pm
Oakington Pavilion

This year we have moved our annual Christmas Celebration from the evening to the morning - and combined it with a festive brunch.

Join the Federation Players and Combined Activities Committee for a morning of festive readings, singing and delicious food.

Cost: WI Members £15.00 Non WI £18.00
Closing Date: 1 December



Out and About

HISTON AND IMPINGTON W I

For our July Meeting, our speaker, Marion Leeper, wove a fascinating story (part factual part imagination) of the life of Winnie Cobb the first lady taxi driver in Cambridgeshire.

Winnie was born in 1891 in Lolworth, the daughter of a chauffeur.

In August, Maggie James related how she and her two small children travelled to Saudi Arabia in the 1980s to join her architect husband who was already working there. Maggie gave us a glimpse into another world and introduced us to a book she has written about her experiences entitled "No way Home".

Mary Law

STAPLEFORD W I

At our July meeting the inspiring speaker was Miles Nicholas, a well-known local butcher. He described his remarkable recovery from a stroke, and subsequent achievements. He emphasised the importance of encouraging men to talk about any stress they are experiencing to try to avoid such medical episodes. At the end of July, on a beautiful summer's day, we enjoyed a wonderful barbecue where locally sourced meat was accompanied by salads, followed by desserts provided by members.

In August Sarah Fitzpatrick used slides with her talk to take us on an interesting and fascinating historical tour of Saffron Walden. She reminded us to look up when we next visit Saffron Walden to appreciate its buildings and history.

Joyce Dobson

BALSHAM W I

Our meeting on 9 July was a social event based on Pimms & Puddings, as well as basic, better best taste testing's on sausage rolls, chocolate and crisps. We also had a food quiz and members had a chance to buy items that had not been sold at the Balsham Feast. We had hoped for some summer weather, but the rain poured! That did not deter members from enjoying the many puddings on offer though!

Debbie Mower

CHRISHALL W I

For our July meeting we welcomed Sue Baker who gave a brief talk about the history of Belly Dancing with a demonstration. We learned that it's not just women



but also men who belly dance; one of the oldest forms of dance in the world, performed in nightclubs, on the stage or street. Within a short while we were costumed up and tried our utmost to imitate her moves, but with most of us falling about with laughter!

Jane Gravett

THE SHELFORDS W I

In July, the sun shone after a damp morning and members were treated to excellent guided tours of the Bourn Post Mill by volunteer members of Cambridge Past Present and Future. Kate, who owns the adjoining Mill Cottage served a fabulous tea in the garden. A regular July activity is the Shelford Feast. We participated by serving teas and cakes whilst proudly wearing our WI aprons. Many thanks to members and Friends who provided so many cakes. We didn't count how many we served but the urns had to be refilled several times.



In September, instead of sitting in rows we were seated around tables answering some excellent quizzes set by Sue Tombs that generated a lovely level of friendly debate as we either knew or guessed answers.

Eleanor Witter

STETCHWORTH W I

Our meeting in July was Burlesque Dancing by Lindsey Barrell. Dressed in a full burlesque boned corset, she described her life after a marriage breakup and an "empty nest". She needed new friends and new interests, so she joined and later formed a burlesque dancing group, 'The Bombshells' and her alter ego is Miss Cherry Bomb. (She also formed a new WI in Essex - Tea 'n Tiaras.) Her talk ended with a little dance routine. She is an excellent and humorous speaker who had us laughing and left us wanting more. At our August meeting, we were honoured to welcome Kevin Boardman as our guest speaker. Kevin delivered a captivating and insightful presentation on "Women on the Oregon Trail". He brought to life the difficulties and tragedies encountered by families; emphasizing the crucial role women played, in this chapter of American history.

In September we welcomed Amanda Sutherland who entertained us with stories of her life and work in creative industries and craft; which included work for the Royal Opera House, followed by others, all in the stage, film and TV industries. On moving to Suffolk she set up her own business making wedding accessories. Her creativity was further demonstrated by her brooches made from fizzy drinks cans and tiaras from milk cartons! They really were incredible.

Lynn Curtis, Lane Groves & Marian Harrington

BARTON W I

Kevin Pigney has been a photographer for seven years, progressing from complete novice to holding certificates of competence, winning competitions and teaching a wide range of photographic topics both in person and online. As his skill and knowledge grew, so did Kevin's range of equipment. From seascapes and landscapes, he moved on to wildlife, then to pet dogs and even horses. He does not normally photograph people but showed us one portrait of a young lady where he had managed to replicate Rembrandt's triangle of light. He backs up his instructive and entertaining talk with series of stunning photographs. We were spellbound.

Ann Killen

WATERBEACH W I

In July one of our members, Corinne Pick, gave a talk on the art of falconry. She had attended a course on the different aspects of looking after and flying falcons. She told us about several phrases and terms derived from falconry and showed examples of falconry in art and literature.

Our August meeting took the form of a private viewing at the recently refurbished Ely Museum. We were welcomed by Elie and Clare who gave an introductory talk in a small courtyard surrounded by beds featuring plants found in The Fens.



We then viewed the exhibits and engaged with the interactive displays on two levels. (The upper level is thankfully served by a lift.) It was sad to see the empty case which had contained the centuries old golden torcs. They had been the target of a burglary. The museum highlights the geological, ecological and social history of Fenland. We had a most enjoyable evening.

Janet Richmond & Sheila Burke

PAPWORTH EVERARD W I

At our June Meeting we were visited by Jane Kennedy who gave us a brief 'taster' of sign language. Jane runs classes in Cambourne, and made the evening very entertaining by providing a lot of flash cards and everyone had a turn at signing the various words on the cards.

In July Marion Leeper took us back to our childhood days by 'Telling Us a Story'. She started by showing us a photograph of a lovely, smiley lady sitting in the driving seat of a taxi, during the first World War, she was Winnie Cobb. On investigation Marion had

established where she had lived in Cambridge, a bit about her family and their interest in cars. Members listened intently, spellbound by Marion's story telling. It was a very enjoyable evening, and everyone left, not really knowing how true the story was – but that didn't matter, it was all feasible, and we all felt that Winnie Cobb was a lady we would have liked to have known.

Joan Tomkinson

HARDWICK W I

In July, some of our members went to Girton College to look at their art and gardens - we chose a good day weather wise. It's an easy thing to organise as parking is free and we were allowed to wander almost everywhere - lovely gardens. The outing was so popular we are doing it again in the autumn.



In July, thanks to CFWI, we arranged a personal shopping evening at Hotter's shoe shop in Cambridge. Fifteen of us arrived at 6.15pm and were able to browse the shelves whilst drinking Prosecco and munching nibbles! We had great fun trying on various footwear, which we could purchase at a favourable discount; and we all received a goody bag to take home. What a lovely evening shopping with friends!



Our Cream Tea in aid of Breast Cancer UK raised over £500! Next year we'll pray for good weather. Some of our members took advantage of the CFWI annual trip to Southwold in early August. It was a fun day out and we enjoyed the sea air.



Our August meeting was our Bring and Share supper – my goodness what an array of delicious goodies were produced – such a spread it was difficult to know where to start! Well done to all the members for making the evening such a success.

Naomi Roy

DUXFORD W I

What do you know about modern ballet? Did you know The Loves of Mars and Venus (1717) by John Weaver, is thought to be the first modern ballet: telling a story through dance alone. The history books say the score and choreography are lost! At our July meeting we found out all about this subject as Evelyn Nallen (one of our members) gave an excellent talk and presentation about how she led a 2017 project that proudly presented a recreation of The Loves of Mars and Venus, exactly 300 years to the day after the first performance. This talk drew about ten extra guests from the village, with one being a potential new member. The highlight was Evelyn, an accomplished musician, playing a piece of Baroque music on two recorders at the same time.

Lesley Hale

Thanks for all your reports.

Items for the December issue to office@cfwi.co.uk
by Monday 4 November 2024

2025 WI Diary Orders

The 2025 diaries are now ready
for collection from the office.